

U.S. Serial No. 09/681,017

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, Applicant believes that a separate Statement of Reasons for Allowance is unnecessary in the present case as the file history sufficiently sets forth the patentable distinctions of claims 10-17 and 23, 25, 26, and 28.

The patentability of claims 10-17 and 23, 25, 26, and 28 lies in each claim as a whole. That is, a single particular element or feature of a claim does not define the claim's patentability, but rather, it is the combination of elements and the interconnection therebetween that define the invention. The claims cannot be considered limited in scope based on these statements by the Examiner. Applicant stands by its position previously set forth in the file history, which adequately sets forth reasons for allowance.

Applicant does not acquiesce to the accuracy of the Examiner's statements in the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner's partial paraphrasing of the claim elements, nor the claim interpretation statements.

Entry of these remarks is appreciated and Applicant cordially invites the Examiner to respond, should the Examiner disagree.

Respectfully submitted,



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